

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-4 and 8-12, AMEND claims 5-7 and ADD new claims 13-16 in accordance with the following:

Claims 1-4 (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~terminal-service unit connectable to a certifying unit~~ and at least one terminal unit, said service unit comprising:

a transmitting device transmitting common certificate information in common with a plurality of services, when the terminal unit of a user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services, to the certifying unit which manages the common certificate information corresponding to service information of available services that the user can access, without requiring identification information or password information issued by the services;

a service utilizing device receiving the service information of the available services from the certifying unit and providing the particular service to terminal unit of the user when the user has been successfully certified based on the common certificate information with display data for displaying a screen including a display region corresponding to the service information received from the certifying unit; and

a storing device storing the common certificate information and the identification information and the password information for the particular service;~~a certifying device certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information; and an issuing device issuing the common certificate information to the user when said certifying device has successfully certified the user.~~

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium on which a program for a computer is recorded, said program causing the computer to perform operations, comprising:

~~storing identification information and password information for a particular service;~~
~~certifying a user based on the identification information and the password information;~~
registering common certificate information linked to service identification information of an available service that a user can access, without requiring management of identification information and password information issued by the available service;

~~issuing a the common certificate information to for the user upon successfully certifying the user;~~

~~receiving the common certificate information of the user from a service unit of the available when the user accesses the particular service of a plurality of services; and~~

~~determining whether the certificate information of the user corresponds to common certificate information in common with the plurality of services; and~~

~~permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information~~
service unit to provide the available service to the user when the received certificate information is linked to the service identification information of the available service.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A certifying method, comprising:

~~pre-registering common certificate information in common with a plurality of services that is linked to service identification information of an available service that a user can access, without requiring management of identification information and password information issued by the available service;~~

~~issuing the common certificate information for the user;~~

~~receiving the common certificate information of the user from a service unit of the available service; and~~

~~determining whether certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information when the user accesses a particular service of the plurality of services;~~

~~permitting the user to utilize the particular service when the certificate information of the user corresponds to the common certificate information~~
service unit to provide the available service to the user when the received certificate information is linked to the service identification information of the particular service;.

~~storing identification information and password information for the particular service;
certifying the user based on the identification information and the password information;
and
issuing the common certificate information to the user upon successfully certifying the
user.~~

Claims 8-12 (CANCELLED)

13. (NEW) A certifying unit, comprising:
a registering device registering common certificate information linked to service identification information of available services for a user, without requiring management of identification information and password information for the user issued by the available services;
an issuing device issuing the common certificate information for the user;
a receiving device receiving the common certificate information of the user from a first service unit of a particular service included in the available services; and
a permitting device permitting the first service unit to provide the particular service to the user when the certificate information received by said receiving device is determined to be linked to particular service identification information of the particular service.

14. (NEW) The certifying unit as set forth in claim 13, wherein said registering device adds other service identification information of a newly available service for the user to the common certificate information, when a second service unit of the newly available service requests that the newly available service be certified by the common certificate information.

15. (NEW) The certifying unit as set forth in claim 14, wherein said permitting device, in response to a request from the first service unit of the particular service to said certifying unit for the available services corresponding to the common certificate information, obtains complete service identification information of the available services linked to the common certificate information of the user, and returns the complete service identification information to the first service unit.

16. (NEW) The certifying unit as set forth in claim 13, further comprising an invalidating device invalidating service identification information of a selected service, when a third service unit of the selected service requests invalidation.